

Torrance, California
August 10, 1943

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, August 10, 1943, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held July 27, 1943, and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 2, 1943, be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from E. M. Van Gordon, operator of a Service Station on the southwest corner of Cravens and Torrance Boulevard, requesting permission to park a house trailer on the premises which would be considered temporary and subject to revocation immediately when housing conditions improve.

Councilman Powell asked Mr. Gordon, who was in the audience, if he owned the property mentioned, whereby Mr. Gordon stated he did not; that it was leased to him.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of Mr. Gordon to park a house trailer on the property on the south west corner of Cravens and Torrance Boulevard, be denied. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Rotary Club, signed by Fay L. Parks, President and Bob McCallum, Secretary, commending the Council on their action in the appropriation of \$1500.00 for the betterment of the youth delinquency problem in this community and extending their moral and financial support.

Chief Stroh reported, upon the request of Councilman Gucci, that the results of the Curfew Ordinance were gratifying.

A communication was read from Swayne A. Johnson, Patrolman, informing the Council that he had been called to the Armed Service as of August 6, 1943, and asking for leave of absence for the duration.

Councilman Babcock stated no motion was necessary as this was automatically taken care of.

A communication was read from the Metropolitan Water District advising that the City of Torrance on or before the 25th day of August, 1943, may elect to pay out of its municipal funds all or any portion of the amount of the Metropolitan Water District tax, which would otherwise be levied upon property within the city for the fiscal year 1943-44.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Metropolitan Water District be notified that the City of Torrance does not wish to pay out of its municipal funds all or any portion of the amount of the Metropolitan Water District tax, for the fiscal year 1943-44. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Civil Service Board recommending that the City Council go on record as approving the "Simplified Examination Procedure" for the Police and Fire Departments and authorize the County of Los Angeles to accept the filing of applications at their Los Angeles office.

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation be approved by the Council and that the Civil Service Board be notified of such action. The motion was lost for want of a second.

After considerable discussion, Councilman Babcock moved that the motion passed August 2, 1943 which reads as follows, "that the Council go on record as hiring only emergency employees during the period of the present war emergency and that the present 'Temporary employees' be reclassified as 'War emergency employees'; this arrangement to apply to all departments of the city", be amended by adding, "with the exception of the Police and Fire Departments." Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

As this motion was in conflict with Resolution No. 1548, Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1594, a resolution rescinding Resolution No. 1548 and providing for employment by the City of War emergency workers, be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Gucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire instructed Attorney McCall to prepare a resolution pertaining to the examination of policemen and firemen by the County Civil Service Commission; a copy of the resolution to be sent to the County Civil Service Commission.

A communication was read from Torrance Civil Service Board recommending that the request of Wm. Gascoigne, Superintendent of Streets, for permission for Sam F. Webb and W. E. Laven to work in lieu of taking a vacation, and that they be paid therefor at their regular rate of pay, be granted.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of Wm. Gascoigne for permission for Sam F. Webb and W. E. Laven to work in lieu of taking a vacation, and that they be paid therefor, be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Chief of Police John H. Stroh requesting that the block on El Prado between Sartori and Border Avenues be posted and restricted to 2 hour parking. Also, that the 1 hour parking limit on Border Avenue between Carson and Double Streets be changed to 2 hour parking and that cars be parked at an angle of 45°.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Chief Stroh be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

An opinion from the City Attorney was read on the matter of issuing permits to minors living outside the City of Torrance, advising that the Chief of Police may legally issue permits or passes to protect minors under the Curfew Ordinance.

Councilman Cucci moved that copies of the above opinion be sent to the Chief of Police and the Youth Commission. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett then brought up the matter of renewal of the lease with the Pacific Electric Railway Company and the City of Torrance of four (4) parcels of Pacific Electric Railway Company's Torrance Line right of way property, between Western and Border Avenues, Torrance, County of Los Angeles, at a rental of \$5.00 for the full five year term, payable in advance.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Mayor be authorized to sign the lease with the Pacific Electric Railway Company and the City of Torrance of four (4) parcels of Pacific Electric Railway Company's Torrance Line right of way property, between Western and Border Avenue, Torrance, County of Los Angeles at a rental of \$5.00 for the full five year term, payable in advance. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1595

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING QUITCLAIM DEED FROM
JOHN C. SMITH, JAMES W. POST AND DOROTHY M.
POST AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO RE-
CORD SAME IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER.

Councilman Babcock moved Resolution No. 1595 be adopted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1596

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING QUITCLAIM DEED FROM JOHN FRANK BURKE, DORA BELIE BURKE, CLAUDE MILTON BURKE AND MINNIE BURKE TUTHILL AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO RECORD SAME IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER.

Councilman Hitchcock moved Resolution No. 1596 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1597

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CERTAIN TAX DEEDED LANDS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO APPLY TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR SUCH TAX DEEDS.

Councilman Hitchcock moved Resolution No. 1597 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1598

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING AGREEMENT AND ACCEPTING QUIT CLAIM DEED FROM DEFENSE PLANT CORPORATION.

Councilman Hitchcock moved Resolution No. 1598 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation be made of \$75.00, plus tax, for the purchase of one typewriter desk to be used in the City Court Room. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved, upon the recommendation of Fire Chief McMaster, that two fire hydrants be installed, one at the southwest corner of Greenwood and Eldorado and the other at the southeast corner of Hickory and Eldorado. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock requested that the Water Department be notified of the above recommendation.

Upon recommendation from Engineer Jain, Councilman Powell moved that the City accept the offer of \$50.00 for the Cadillac Phaeton sedan which was purchased for emergency fire use and for which Chief McMaster declares he has no use. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$651.25, plus tax, be made for repair parts for A.C. Tractor. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$250.00 be made for straightening Pacific Electric tracks on Plaza del Amo at the Border Avenue intersection, and recommending that the Pacific Electric be requested to do the work. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$322.43 be made to cover cost of gutters and paving the intersections on Cabrillo Avenue. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that O. D. Butterfield, City Electrician, be authorized to attend the Annual Convention of International Association of Electrical Inspectors, to be held in Los Angeles, from August 30 to September 1, inclusive, expenses paid. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that an expenditure be made of \$388.98 to the Crown Body and Coach Corporation for reconditioning and painting of the body and repairing the upholstering of Bus No. 105 for the Torrance Municipal Bus Line. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock reported on the income of the Bus Lines from January 1 to July 1, 1943, the Revenue being \$27,260.55 and the Disbursements \$25,968.59.

Mayor McGuire moved that the Water Department be authorized to purchase 4 - 2" meters @ \$264.00, plus \$6.60 tax, the total amount being \$270.60. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire advised Attorney McCall that at a meeting with the employees he was asked on what the City Attorney based his opinion as to the necessity of the firemen to observe the cover up section of the ordinance, stating that he informed them it was from the Civil

Service Ordinance. The employees, he said, do not wish to report on their days off and asked Mr. McCall to draw up a report clarifying this situation.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Louis King, owner of the Torrance Bowling Academy at 1953 Carson Street, asked permission of the Council to keep the Bowling Alley opened after midnight due to the fact that the swing shifters could not bowl any other time except then.

Mayor McGuire asked Mr. King how long after midnight he intended to stay open whereupon Mr. King stated until about 2:30 A.M.

Councilman Powell questioned Mr. King as to the hiring of minors after the hours of 12:00 midnight at which time Mr. King stated that the swing shifters would be willing to set pins for themselves if he would just stay open for them.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be taken under consideration and an answer be given at a later date. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Chief Stroh asked to whom the property belonged on 213th Street near The National Supply Warehouse, stating that the Fire Department could not get near the fire hydrant due to the fact that the place was always blocked by cars.

Mayor McGuire informed Chief Stroh that the R.F.C. is going to take Lots 1, 2 & 3 to turn into a parking lot for the Plancor building.

Engineer Jain stated that The National Supply Company wished to obtain permission to raise the west rear fence at the City Yard and replace the foundation by concrete at their expense.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request of The National Supply Company for permission to raise the west rear fence at the City Yard and replace the foundation by concrete at their expense, be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock stated he had a request from Mr. W. H. Stanger, Manager of the Water Department, that Mrs. Ellen Blackshere be recommended for leave of absence from August 20, 1943 to October 20, 1943, inclusive, due to illness in her family.

Councilman Babcock moved that the recommendation that Mrs. Ellen Blackshere be granted leave of absence from August 20, 1943 to October 20, 1943, inclusive, be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

Discussion followed after which the motion was changed granting the leave of absence upon verification in writing by the Civil Service Board. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock requested the City Clerk to draw up a form to be signed by the members of the Civil Service Board in order that Mrs. Blackshere would receive permission to take her leave before termination of her vacation on August 20, 1943.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At 9:00 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Cucci, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, August 17, 1943, at 5:00 P.M.

A. H. Baint
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

Tom F. McGuire
Mayor of the City of Torrance